

JOURNAL AND PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF THE PROVINCE OF
UPPER CANADA
1821.

York, 21st November, 1821.

The Provincial Legislature having been by Proclamation prorogued to this day, at three o'clock the House met accordingly.

Present:—The Hons. Wm. Dummer Powell, Speaker; James Baby, John McGill, Thomas Scott, William Dickson, John Strachan, Joseph Wells and Duncan Cameron.

At three o'clock p.m. His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor having come to the Legislative Council Chamber, and being seated upon the Throne, the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod was directed to command the attendance of the Speaker and members of the Commons House of Assembly at the Bar of this House, and they being come thereto, His Excellency was pleased to address both Houses of the Provincial Parliament in the following words:—

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:—

I regret to be under the necessity of informing you that our Commissioners for adjusting our financial interests with Lower Canada, have found it impracticable to establish a new agreement on terms which they could regard as compatible with our just claims. A suspension of the receipt has thus unavoidably occurred in that very material branch of our Revenue which accrues from our proportion of the duties collected at the Port of Quebec.

Deeply as I felt the importance of this embarrassing result, I would not overlook the public convenience of having recourse to your counsel at a period when your absence from your several districts might have materially interfered with the administration of justice; but measures were resorted to for obviating as much as possible the difficulties which in this conjunction unavoidably occurred.

I have now directed that the papers relative to the proceedings of the Commissioners shall be immediately submitted to you, and I recommend the consideration of this important subject to your earliest attention.

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,—The Public Accounts, with estimates for the ensuing year, shall be laid before you without delay. It is satisfactory to observe that our internal revenue, small as it is, and altogether unequal to our exigencies, has not decreased during the past year, notwithstanding the general depression of trade and agriculture.

Henceforward the annual expenditure will be considerably lessened by the reductions which have been made in the Militia Pension List under your late Act; and in availing myself of the provision enabling me to borrow on debenture the